

What is claimed is:

1. A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic ophthalmopathy, comprising administering an effective amount of 4-[α -hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-imidazolyl)benzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoic acid, an optically active compound thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
2. A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic ophthalmopathy, comprising administering an effective amount of sodium 4-[α -hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-imidazolyl)benzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoate dihydrate.
3. A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic ophthalmopathy, comprising administering an effective amount of (S)-(-)-4-[α -hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-imidazolyl)benzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
4. A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic ophthalmopathy, comprising administering an effective amount of sodium (S)-(-)-4-[α -hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-imidazolyl)benzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoate 2/3 hydrate.
5. A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic arteriosclerosis, comprising administering an effective amount of 4-[α -hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-imidazolyl)benzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoic acid, an optically active compound thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
6. A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic arteriosclerosis, comprising administering an effective amount of sodium 4-[α -hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-imidazolyl)benzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoate dihydrate.

7. A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic arteriosclerosis, comprising administering an effective amount of (S)-(-)-4-[α -hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-imidazolyl)benzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic arteriosclerosis, comprising administering an effective amount of sodium (S)-(-)-4-[α -hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-imidazolyl)benzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoate 2/3 hydrate.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is cataract.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is glaucoma.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is retinopathy.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is iritis.

13. The method of claim 2, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is cataract.

14. The method of claim 2, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is glaucoma.

15. The method of claim 2, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is retinopathy.

16. The method of claim 2, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is iritis.

17. The method of claim 3, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is cataract.

18. The method of claim 3, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is glaucoma.

19. The method of claim 3, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is retinopathy.
20. The method of claim 3, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is iritis.
21. The method of claim 4, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is cataract.
22. The method of claim 4, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is glaucoma.
23. The method of claim 4, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is retinopathy.
24. The method of claim 4, wherein the diabetic ophthalmopathy is iritis.